

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8438

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PASS USDOC/MEPD, TREASURY

EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : BENC, EFIN, MX

SUBJ : INAUGURATION SICARTSA PHASE I; PROSPECTS FOR PHASE II

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATED PHASE I OF SICARTSA STEEL PLANT AT LAS TRUCHAS, MICHOACAN NOVEMBER 4. IN THE COURSE OF SPEECHES BY SEVERAL NOTABLES MARKING THE OCCASION, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF TIMETABLE FOR PHASE II. NEAREST TO A MENTION, WAS SICARTSA DIR GEN ORIVE ALBA'S ASSERTION THAT WORK ON PHASE II WOULD CONTINUE. IN ADDITION, AWARD OF HARDWARE BID, NOW SIX MONTHS OVERDUE, AND ELECTRICS BID (IN WHICH G.E. IS COMPETITOR), WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED MID-AUGUST, ARE STILL UNDER REVIEW. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT PHASE II ELECTRICS COMPETITORS WERE REQUESTED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO EXTEND PRESENT BIDS THROUGH END OF YEAR.

2. CONSENSUS AMONG COMPANY OFFICIALS AND CONSULTANTS WITH WHOM EMBASSY OBSERVER SPOKE, WAS THAT NO DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ON EITHER BID AWARDS OR CONTINUATION OF NEAR-TERM PHASE II UNTIL AFTER LOPEZ PORTILLO'S INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT DECEMBER 1; NO ONE WOULD GUESS HOW LONG AFTER. DELAY OF PHASE II, OR PART OF IT, COULD BE PART OF STABILIZATION SLOWDOWN ON PUBLIC WORKS.

3. BRITISH STEEL (SICARTSA'S CONSULTANT) PROJECT DEVELOP-
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MENT DIRECTOR CHARACTERIZED G.E. AND G.E.C. (UK) AS PRINCIPAL

CONTENDERS FOR PHASE II ELECTRICS. FURTHER STATED HE GAVE
G.E. GREATER THAN 50 PERCENT CHANCE AT AWARD IF MADE UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. EMBASSY POUCHING ORIVE ALBA'S SPEECH, IN SPANISH, TO
USDOC FOR MEPD.
CALDERHEAD

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Message Attributes

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